



CITY OF HAVERHILL
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer st, Room 202

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Present: President Sullivan, Councilors Basiliere, Ferreira, Jordan, Hobbs Everett, Michitson, Rogers and Toohey

Remote: Councilor Lewandowski

Absent: Councilors McGonagle and LePage

City Clerk: Kaitlin M. Wright

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

COUNCILOR ROGERS STATED SHE REVIEWED THE MINUTES AND FINDS THEM IN ORDER.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS TO APPROVE AND PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

4. ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING

PRESIDENT SULLIVAN ASSIGNED THE MINUTES TO COUNCILOR BASILIERE

9.1 Document 39: CCSP 25-2: Attorney Harb representing *WP*

Acquisition Sub, LLC, request to construct an addition to the *Haverhill*

Pavillion on 76 Summer st that will add a new 24-bed geriatric unit

Comments from City Depts are included

City Clerk Wright stated we received communication from Attorney Harb requesting a continuance until the May 6, 2025 meeting.

President Sullivan opened the hearing.

Attorney Harb addressed the council on behalf of the applicant. He is requesting a continuance in order to have a full council present.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO CONTINUE TO MAY 6, 2025 SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED TO CONTINUE TO MAY 6, 2025 YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

10.1.1 *Commission on Disability Issues* - Frances Lamb,
84 Hunter's Run Place expires 4/30/2028

To Be Confirmed

7-G

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

CITY CLERK WRIGHT SWORE FRANCES LAMB IN.

4.1. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Barrett requests to introduce *Superintendent* Maureen Lynch and *President* Lane Glenn to give an update on the *Whittier Vo-Tech* project at *Northern Essex Community College* 12-G

Superintendent Maureen Lynch updated the council on Whittier Tech, highlighting strong community collaboration and excitement about future plans. She noted that 856 of the school's 1,285 students are from Haverhill and explained that three low-enrollment programs were recently cut. Lynch emphasized Whittier's strong co-op program, helping students join the workforce, and the success of the early college program with 160 students attending classes on



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college campuses. She discussed the urgent need for a new building due to rising demand for skilled trades and promised continued focus on increasing Haverhill enrollment.

President Glenn discussed utilizing existing campus space identified in a recent space utilization study conducted with Jones Architecture. The college is exploring multiple funding avenues for a new project, including higher education capital and operations funding, foundation support, and federal earmarks. One key opportunity is the proposed Bright Act—a \$2.5 billion capital bond bill for higher education, which includes funding for collaborations between career technical education high schools and colleges like Northern Essex. The college is also in talks with MassDevelopment to explore cost-saving opportunities for the existing site. The project is envisioned as an innovative model with potential national significance. President Glenn discussed national models and highlighted the Stern Collaborative Campus in Colorado as the closest comparison, though less integrated than what is being proposed. The college and Whittier Tech are exploring three potential collaboration models. The preferred approach is a shared identity model, where both schools operate under a unified banner (e.g., “Essex Polytechnic”) with integrated staffing and expanded opportunities for early college, apprenticeships, and workforce credentials. This would go beyond simply sharing land or services, creating a truly collaborative and innovative educational environment. A full merger is not being considered now but is noted as a future possibility. The project has been progressing with support from the Donohue Institute and other state agencies.

Superintendent Lynch emphasized that all 11 communities must approve moving forward for the project to meet MSBA eligibility requirements. The feasibility study, funded solely by the district, must be supported by May, with a July 1st deadline. If approved, the eligibility period would begin August 1st, with the feasibility study likely starting in June of next year. Councilor Michitson expressed strong support, citing potential benefits for education, job training, economic development, and taxpayer savings.

Councilor Michitson expressed strong support for expanding vocational opportunities, particularly at Whittier Tech and Northern Essex, and suggested extending the proposal to include partnerships across middle schools, high schools, non-profits, and industry. He emphasized that the focus should be on student needs, not bureaucratic interests. Discussions included potential cost savings, with land owned by the Commonwealth being a key factor. Superintendent Lynch noted that 10 of the 11 communities are on board, with the final town visiting soon. The feasibility study funding may be shared by the 11 communities, with concerns about costs and taxpayer impact, particularly regarding the wastewater treatment plant at the current site. Mayor Barrett noted future changes to agreements may require legislative action. President Sullivan expressed full support, calling the project one of the most innovative proposals in public education.

- 4.2. Mayor Barrett requests to introduce *Public Works Director Robert Ward* to provide a brief update on the City’s water supply as of April 1st and the recommended guidelines for allowable outdoor water use during the current drought emergency

12-H



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Robert Ward DPW Director addressed the council. He stated the current reservoir level: 106.4', which falls into the emergency drought zone. Significantly below the 35-year average, as shown in the presentation. A drought emergency was declared on March 19 due to ongoing low water levels. Water use regulations will be monitored and adjusted as conditions change. Allowable Uses (Tiered System): First Tier (Restricted to before 7:00 AM or after 7:00 PM): Watering of vegetable gardens using a watering can, hose with automatic shutoff, or drip irrigation. Watering newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials (using can or hose with shutoff). Use of tree bags for watering trees. Second Tier (Effective date TBD): Watering of newly seeded or sodded lawns (30-day establishment period). Irrigation of public parks and recreation fields. Exceptions: Agricultural uses Businesses dependent on water (e.g., golf courses) Irrigation with harvested rainwater or stormwater runoff. Rain Barrel Program \$25 rebate (as a water bill credit) for purchases made by April 13. Barrels delivered April 26; no extra steps required to claim rebate. Prohibited Outdoor Uses: Lawn irrigation (except during the establishment period) Washing vehicles (except at commercial car washes) Washing paved surfaces (e.g., driveways, patios) Decorative fountains and water features without aquatic life Filling/topping pools, hot tubs, or wading pools Outdoor misting systems Irrigation of non-edible, non-newly planted ornamental gardens Automatic sprinkler use for anything but public fields Non-essential water use in construction (e.g., dust control) City projects like Merrimack Street construction will need to comply. Indoor Conservation Tips: Check and fix toilet leaks, take shorter showers, be mindful of overall indoor water use.

Councilor Michitson questioned how 70,000 residents would be made to follow new water rules. Robert Ward noted that police details were hired during the last water ban to issue tickets. This time, Inspectional Services may handle enforcement, including observations, letters, and fines.

Councilor Hobbs Everett emphasized the need for clear communication, including the repercussions of violating the ban. Robert Ward responded that while no mass mailing is planned, letters will go to properties with automatic sprinkler systems, and info could be included in the May 1st water bills. Everbridge alerts, signs, and message boards will be used as the ban rolls out more formally.

Councilor Ferreira raised concerns about tenants being informed, as water bills go to property owners. Robert Ward acknowledged this and agreed owners could be asked to relay the information.

Councilor Ferreira asked about rebates for rain barrels already purchased; Robert Ward confirmed that rebates will still be honored.

Vice President Jordan suggested robocalls; Robert Ward clarified this will be handled through Everbridge.

Vice President Jordan inquired if the ban would adjust based on rainfall; Robert Ward confirmed yes, they are monitoring levels.

President Sullivan asked about development. Robert Ward reported that water usage in 2023 was the lowest in the past 10 years, averaging 5 million gallons/day. Development has not significantly impacted water usage due to water-saving fixtures in new construction. Weather is the main factor, influencing both usage and revenue by over \$1.5 million/year.

President Sullivan requested ongoing updates as the situation evolves over the coming month.

**4.3. Mayor Barrett submits an Order Relating to Authorization to Enter
Into a Contract Or Contracts in Excess of Three Years
*Related communication from City Solicitor Lisa Mead***

**4.3.1. Order – Authorize Mayor to enter into a contract in excess of
three years and no more than five years pursuant to G.L., c 30B
sec.12 (b) with Flock Group Inc. for goods and services related to**



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cameras and software for license plate monitoring by the Police

Department

23-F

Mayor Barrett stated this contract was signed last January before we had the City Solicitor in place. We are going to resign the contract. We don't typically do a five year contract.

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

4.4. Mayor Barrett submits Memorandums of Agreement for the *Library Group (Teamsters)* and *Superior Officers Group*

4.4.1. MOA – *Library Group (Teamsters)*

File 10 days 31-B

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

4.4.2. MOA – *Superior Officers Group*

File 10 days 31-C

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS TO INTRODUCE AN INDIVIDUAL(S) TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

5.1. Vice President Jordan requests to introduce Tracy Fuller, Executive Director of the *Haverhill YMCA*, to discuss their upcoming *Legacy Gala* being held at *Bradford Country Club* on Saturday, May 10th 13-F

Tracy Fuller, Haverhill YMCA executive director addressed the council. The Legacy Gala will be held on May 10th at Bradford Country Club. This event supports camps, summer learning loss programs and food insecurity work. You can get tickets by scanning the QR code and on our website. We also have another event for our Inspire and Impact series luncheon.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION- REQUESTS UNDER COUNCIL RULE 28

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES:

7.1 Christine Webb, *City Assessor* submits the abatement report for the month of March 2025

14-E

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

7.2 Angel A Perkins, *City Auditor & Chief Financial Officer* submits the revenue and expense reports for the City's general and operating budgets for March 2025

20-J

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY

PASSED

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8. UTILITY HEARING(S) AND RELATED ORDER(S):



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9. **HEARINGS AND RELATED ORDERS:**

9.1. Document 39: moved to beginning of agenda.

10. **APPOINTMENTS:**

10.1. **Confirming Appointments**

10.1.1. *Commission on Disability Issues* - moved to beginning of agenda

10.2. **Non-Confirming Appointments:**

10.3. **Constables**

10.4. **Resignations:**

11. **PETITIONS:**

11.1. **Applications Handicap Parking Sign:** *with Police approval*

11.2. **Amusement/Event Application:** *with Police approval*

11.3. **Auctioneer License:**

11.4. **Tag Days:** *with Police approval*

11.5. **One Day Liquor License –** *with License Commission & HPD approval*

11.6. **ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS:**

11.6.1. **Hawker Peddlers License- Fixed location –** *with Police approval*

11.6.2. **Coin-Op License Renewals –** *with Police approval*

11.6.3. **Christmas Tree Vendor –** *with Police approval*

11.6.4. **Taxi Driver Licenses for 2024:** *with Police approval*

11.6.5. **Taxi/Limousine License** *with Police approval*

11.6.6. **Junk Dealer /Collector License –** *with Police approval*

11.6.7. **Pool/Billiard –** *with Police approval*

11.6.7.1. *Wicked Axe, 721 South Main st, 2 Pool Tables* 56

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

11.6.8. **Bowling**

11.6.9. **Sunday Bowling**

11.6.10. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Articles** *with Police approval*

11.6.11. **Buy & Sell Second Hand Clothing**

11.6.12. **Pawnbroker license -** *with police approval*

11.6.13. **Fortune Teller** *with - Police approval*

11.6.14. **Buy & Sell Old Gold –** *with Police approval*

11.6.15. **Roller Skating Rink**



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- 11.6.16. **Sunday Skating**
11.6.17. **Exterior Vending Machines/Redbox Automated
Retail, LLC**
11.6.18. **Limousine/Livery License/Chair Cars with Police
approval**

12.MOTIONS AND ORDERS:

- 12.1. Order – Authorize the payment of bills of the previous years
and to further authorize the payment from current year departmental
appropriations as listed: 10-D

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
Catalis	\$2,000.00	Wastewater Dept
Constellation	\$19.11	Highway Dept
Total: \$2019.11		

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

- 12.2 Order – Transfer \$500,000 from fiscal 2024 certified free cash
to fund fiscal 2025 Youth Activity & Mental Health 30-C

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON

PASSED

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Mayor Barrett and Vice President Jordan discussed the \$750,000 in ARPA funds that were intended to fund programs in Fiscal Year 2025, but there's confusion over fiscal timelines and whether that funding was for FY24 or FY25. Mayor Barrett clarified the funds were not encumbered in time. The Mayor noted that ARPA funds were not designed for long-term social services.

Both Vice President Jordan and Councilor Lewandowski noted going forward, the city will need alternate funding sources. Councilor Lewandowski emphasized the importance of sustainable funding and mentioned Mass Senate Bill 60 as a potential opportunity.

Councilor Ferreira asked for a background on these grants.

Mayor Barrett stated the program originated during budget discussions and initially focused on youth diversion services, later expanded to include mental health.

An additional \$250,000 was added in the second year, specifically allocated for mental health.

Mayor Barrett noted that programs funded in the past included those run by local schools, the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, GEM Program, and Haverhill Downtown Boxing Club.



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Councilors reiterated support for maintaining and growing the Youth Services and Mental Health program.

13. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

- 13.1. Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; No Parking on Bridge St,
both sides, entire length File 10 Days 49-B

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

- 13.2. Ordinance: re: Vehicles and Traffic; Handicap parking, 51
Arch St File 10 Days 11-F

MOTION BY COUNCILOR ROGERS TO PLACE ON FILE, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

14. PETITIONS:

- 14.1. City Engineer, John Pettis submits request that the City accept
Harbor Drive as a Public Way, # 126571 Refer to Planning Board
& Council Hearing June 24th 57

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO REFER TO PLANNING, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

- 14.2. City Engineer, John Pettis submits request that the City accept
Mohawk Trail as a Public Way, #127614 Refer to Planning Board
& Council Hearing June 24th 58

MOTION BY COUNCILOR TOOHEY TO REFER TO PLANNING, SECOND BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING:

- 16.1. Document 49; Ordinance re: Vehicles and Traffic; No Parking
on Cottage St, East side, entire length *filed March 26, 2025*

MOTION BY COUNCILOR MICHITSON TO APPROVE, SECOND BY COUNCILOR ROGERS

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

17. RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

18. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

19. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

20. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

21. ADJOURN:

MOTION BY VICE PRESIDENT JORDAN TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY COUNCILOR LEWANDOWSKI

PASSED

YEAS 9, NAYS 0, ABSENT 2 (MCGONAGLE AND LEPAGE)

ADJOURNED: 20:29